

Questions for Appointees to the Oakland University Board of Control  
Submitted by Monica E. Emerson

**1. What goals would you like to achieve during your time on the board?**

I would like to see Oakland University continue to be recognized as a premier research university that optimizes accessibility and affordability for students who are residents and non-residents of the State of Michigan.

**2. In your discussions with the governor's office prior to your appointment, what was the general charge given to you?**

There were no discussions with the governor's office prior to my appointment. Having applied for this board, I received a call from the Appointments division for an interview. As alumni of Oakland University and resident of Oakland County I am interested in being of service to Oakland University and the community.

**3. Over the last 15 or 20 years it seems that all state universities have been expanding programs to try to offer everything to everyone. Do you think this is a good idea?**

It is important that students are able to choose from an optimal number of program offerings within the University of their choosing. It is also important to demonstrate fiscal stewardship/responsibility in meeting the needs of the University's mission and long term goals.

**4. There is a proposal to separate funding of the state's three largest universities from the other twelve universities. Should University of Michigan, Michigan State University and Wayne State University be separately funded?**

Funding of all fifteen universities should come from the state budget and occur on the same timeline in order to ensure consistent treatment of all public universities. If we were to fund universities by one or separate means, the real issue is to recognize the importance of funding all at the same level. I believe it is important not to treat any university different from another.

**5. Under what circumstances would you vote to increase tuition at your school?**

Only after knowing and reviewing other reasonable measures taken to offset budget shortfalls, would I consider voting to increase tuition.

**6. Do you think your university has done a good job of controlling costs? Where would you find additional cost savings?**

Yes. I would encourage the university to seek additional cost savings through increased administrative efficiencies, expanded use of technology and leveraging external partnerships with key stakeholders.

**7. What type of outcomes should the university measure to determine if it is being successful (i.e., graduation rates, how long it took to graduate, job placement in the graduates major, etc.)? Does your university currently do anything like this?**

The university should measure a variety of outcomes to determine if it is being successful including those, but not limited to, mentioned in the question. Other measures should include enrollment demographics, costs per student, research grants awarded, etc. Yes, it does.

**8. What is your position on the importance of state universities as authorizers of charter public schools?**

It is important that all youth in the state are provided a quality education and that the authorization of charter public schools should occur in a manner that ensures they meet consistent standards.

**9. What is your opinion of the new constitutional amendment banning the use of race and gender preferences in public university admissions? How will you ensure that the amendment is implemented at your university?**

The law should be enforced. A review of the admission process and guidelines should occur to ensure that the admission process currently in place is one that is consistent with the law.

**10. In which areas of technological research does your university specialize? How effective is your school at commercializing this research to grow the state's economy?**

The university continues to strengthen its research in the biomedical area and is becoming more effective and innovative in ways to commercialize its research to help grow the state's economy.

**11. Do you see postsecondary education as mainly a conduit to the work world or is there intrinsic value to pursuing a higher education.**

The two concepts, i.e., workplace preparation and intrinsic value are not mutually exclusive. To the contrary, students acquire value well beyond work world readiness when they pursue higher education. The intrinsic value of education when coupled with gainful employment, form the basis of one's quality of life in the communities in which one works and resides.

**12. Do you think K-12 institutions are doing a good job of preparing students for college? Why?**

In general, all K-12 institutions have opportunity for improvement with respect to preparing students for college. Some institutions are doing far better than others, while some lag behind. Our collective challenge is to ensure rapid improvement in all, with a special focus on those most in need of improvement. The new high school graduation requirements supported by Governor Granholm and bi-partisan majorities in the legislature is a huge step forward when it comes to making sure all high school students are prepared for success in post-secondary education and work.